



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 3a1
December 16, 2021

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TO: Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Achievement First

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program and the SBA Capital Fund. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. With the passage of the Statewide School Construction Bond in November 2018, voters activated six new temporary bonus incentives and access to \$250M in upfront funding to support the state share of foundation school housing aid.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve a Necessity of School Construction application. A chart summarizing Achievement First Charter School's projects is provided in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling **\$76,500,000** pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be **\$22,950,000**, which includes \$4,652,100 in pay-as-you-go funding):

Achievement First:

- a. Site Purchase, Repairs and Renovations:
 - i. High School \$ 38,475,000
 - ii. Illuminar School \$ 38,025,000

SUMMARY: FY 2022 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	JUSTIFICATION	FY 2022 AID SHARE RATIO*	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	STATE SHARE	STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST**
Site Purchase, Repairs and Renovations	This project includes the purchase of two properties, as well as high priority improvements, educational enhancements to accommodate the Achievement First Charter School.	The Achievement First Charter School currently leases space in Providence in a building that does not accommodate the LEA's educational program delivery. This project will provide Achievement First with a permanent high school to accommodate the LEA's educational program for its approved enrollment and an addition to the Illuminar Middle School. This project includes the purchase of the facility, as well as high priority repairs including site repairs, HVAC improvements, electrical upgrades, ADA improvements, educational program improvements, and other building systems repairs.	Base Rate 30%	\$76,500,000	\$22,950,000	\$31,014,000
			Maximum Rate 45%***	\$76,500,000	\$34,425,000	\$46,521,000

* State share ratio is based on FY2022 calculation, pursuant to RIGL 16-7-41(b).

** Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest.

*** District may be eligible for a maximum of 15% additional reimbursement, pursuant to RIGL 16-7-40.